

April 13, 2016

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**United States Coast Guard
USCG Station Humboldt Bay Dredging
40.767, -124.217¹
WDID No. 1B16184WNHU, ECM PIN CW-822329**

Humboldt County

On February 26, 2016, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the United States Coast Guard (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (certification) for activities related to the proposed USCG Station Humboldt Bay Dredging Project (Project).

Project Description

The purpose of the Project is to restore and maintain construction depth at the Applicant's Coast Guard station boat basin, located on the inland side of the north spit in Samoa, Humboldt Bay. The Applicant proposes to use a clamshell dredge to remove approximately 1,730 cubic yards, but no more than 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from an approximately 0.27 acre area. Approximately 801 cubic yards of dredged material would be removed to reach the dredging depth of -8 mean lower low water (MLLW), and approximately 929 cubic yards of material would be removed to reach the allowable two feet overdepth dredging elevation of -10 MLLW. Dredge material would be disposed of at the Humboldt Open Ocean Disposal Site (HOODS).

Impacts

The proposed Project would result in approximately 0.27 acres of temporary impacts to Humboldt Bay as a result of dredging up to 2,000 cubic yards of sediment.

Avoidance and Minimization

There are two small patches of eelgrass on the margins of the Project area. Silt curtains would be installed around the patches to protect them from the sediment mobilized during dredging activities.

Dredging Timing

Dredging is expected to take approximately ten days during a two-week period.

¹ WGS84 datum

Other Agency Permits

The Applicant has applied to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for an Individual Permit, pursuant to CWA, section 404, and section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The United States Environmental Protection Agency issued Ocean Disposal Special Conditions for 2016 US Coast Guard Use of the Humboldt Open Ocean Disposal Site on March 3, 2016. The Applicant has initiated consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service and is seeking a letter of concurrence.

CEQA

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, as lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption, 15304 (g) Minor Alterations to Land, and will file a Notice of Exemption with the State Clearinghouse concurrent with issuance of the 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to CEQA guidelines.

Public Comments

Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. In addition, staff will consider all phone calls and comments submitted in writing and received within a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Brendan Thompson at (707) 576-2699 or Brendan.Thompson@waterboards.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The Regional Water Board's Project file includes the application for certification and additional details of the proposed Project, including maps and design drawings. Project documents and any comments received are on file and may be reviewed or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.